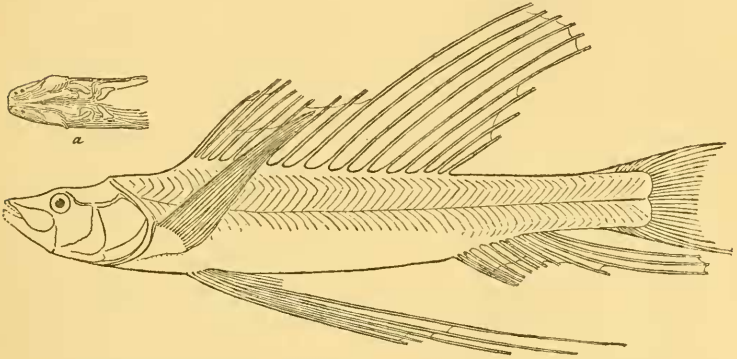


abdomen seems to be very distensible and the vent is situated just in front of the anal fin. The myotomes number about 62. The caudal fin has 19 principal rays and there are 18 rays in the dorsal fin, 12 in the anal, 16 in the pectoral, and 8 in the pelvic; all the rays of the dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins appear to be very elongate and unbranched, but some of them may have been branched distally; the pelvic fins are rather widely separated and are inserted just behind the pectorals. The gill-membranes are free from the isthmus and the branchiostegals are rather long, slender, and curved,



*Macristium chavesi* (slightly reduced). *a*, head from above.

about 8 in number on each side; there are 4 gills and no pseudobranchiæ. Small acutely pointed teeth are present in the lower jaw and on the vomer, palatines, and tongue; the maxillary is broad, rounded posteriorly, without supra-maxillary. There are two nostrils on each side which are superior rather than lateral in position and lie near the end of the snout in front of the anterior end of what appears to be an elongate supraorbital bone; the head is flattish above and the frontals are slightly raised above each eye. The post-temporals approach each other rather closely in the occipital region.

---

XX.—*New Asiatic Muridæ*. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

*Epimys whiteheadi perlutus*, subsp. n.

Essential characters of true *whiteheadi*, but with larger skull and greyish belly.

General colour above of the same mixture of buffy and grey, lined with blackish, as in *whiteheadi*. Under surface (instead of being more or less buffy ochraceous) clear pale grey, near "lavender-grey," fairly well defined laterally; some specimens, however, with a faint buffy wash along the centre of the chest and abdomen.

Skull, compared with that of true *whiteheadi*, larger throughout, and the brain-case broader. Frontal region concave, the supraorbital and parietal ridges strongly marked. Palatal foramina very short.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 130 mm.; tail 120; hind foot 29·7.

Skull: greatest length 35·5; basilar length 28·2; zygomatic breadth 15·5; nasals 11·7; interorbital breadth 5·7; breadth across parietal ridges 14·3; palatilar length 14; diastema 9; palatal foramina 4·5 × 2·4; upper molar series 5·8.

*Hab.* Balangean, Northern Central Sarawak.

*Type.* Old female. B.M. no. 11. 1. 19. 2. Original number 27. Collected 3rd July, 1910. Presented by the Sarawak Museum. Five specimens examined.

This would seem to be a larger pale-bellied form of the Kina-Balu *E. whiteheadi*, a species which, curiously enough, has not as yet turned up in the intermediate region of Baram, so well worked by Messrs. Hose and Everett.

I owe the opportunity of describing this rat to the kindness of Mr. J. C. Moulton, of the Sarawak Museum, who has sent to the British Museum a small collection of Muridæ from Balangean for determination.

#### *Chiropodomys legatus*, sp. n.

Like *Ch. major*, but larger.

External characters much as in *major*, but size larger. Fur rather longer and softer; hairs of back about 7·5 mm. in length. Colour above of the same greyish fawn; under surface pure sharply defined white. Hands and feet dull whitish, with but little darkening on the metatarsals. Tail longer than in *major*, rather less heavily tufted.

Skull longer than that of *Ch. major*, rather less broad in proportion. Supraorbital ledges well developed. Nasals not projected anteriorly in front of gnathion. Palatal foramina decidedly longer than in *major*.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 133 mm.; tail 152; hind foot (wet) 24·5; ear (wet) 16.

Skull: tip of nasals to front corner of interparietal 28; hensenion to basilar suture 22; zygomatic breadth 17·2;

length of nasals 11; interorbital breadth 5·5; breadth of brain-case 14·8; palatilar length 15; diastema 9·8; palatal foramina 5; length of upper molar series 4·9.

*Hab.* Mt. Kina Balu, N. Borneo. Type from "above Pinokok."

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 93. 4. 1. 21. Collected October 1892 by A. Everett.

This is the largest *Chiropodomys* yet discovered. It differs from its ally *Ch. major* by its larger size, longer tail, and longer palatal foramina. The abbreviation of the nasals anteriorly is also worthy of note, the same character occurring in the next species, while the nasals of *Ch. major* are as in ordinary Murines.

*Chiropodomys pictor*, sp. n.

Rather smaller than *Ch. major*.

Size about as much smaller than in *Ch. major* as it is larger in *Ch. legatus*. Fur soft and close; hairs of back about 6 mm. in length. General colour above greyish fawn, rather paler on the sides. Under surface pure sharply defined creamy white. Eyes with dark rings. Ears brown. Hands and feet silvery whitish, a narrow dark patch along the middle of the metatarsals. Tail uniformly dark brown as usual; heavily tufted terminally.

Skull with broad rounded brain-case, much bowed in upper profile. Nasals not reaching forward to the level of gnathion. Palatal foramina short.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body (c.) 120 mm.; tail 120; hind foot (wet) 20·5; ear (wet) 16.

Skull: tip of nasals to front corner of interparietal 24·5; hensenion to basilar suture 18·6; zygomatic breadth 16·5; length of nasals 8·8; interorbital breadth 5·3; breadth of brain-case 14; palatilar length 12·8; diastema 8·2; palatine foramina 3·7; upper molar series 4.

A perfect skull taken from a spirit-specimen is 27·6 mm. in total length; basilar length 21·7.

*Hab.* Mt. Kina Balu, N. Borneo.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 94. 7. 2. 43. Collected January 1894 by A. Everett.

HÆROMYS, gen. nov.

Like *Chiropodomys* in shape of skull and prehensile character of feet, but the molars of the general *Mus-Epimys*

type, without postero-internal cusp (cusp 7 or  $x$  cusp), the laminae simple, not corrugated.

*Type.* *H. margarettæ* (*Mus margarettæ*, Thos.).

Other species:—*H. pusillus* (*Mus margarettæ pusillus*, Thos., 1893) and *H. minahassæ*, Thos.

This genus, whose peculiarities have been already fully detailed in the descriptions of the species, seems to bear in Borneo to *Chiropodomys* something of the same sort of relationship that in Africa the *Thamnomys*-like mice do to true *Thamnomys*; but the difference between the two is greater and more sharply defined, and the generic distinction of *Heromys* from *Epimys* indubitable.

The asserted resemblance of the feet of *H. minahassæ* to those of "*Mus*," as given in the original description, seems to have been due to the specimen being a dried skin, so that their structure could not be easily made out. They appear to be much the same as in *H. margarettæ*.

#### *Uromys obiensis*, sp. n.

A medium-sized species, with white belly.

Size rather less than in *U. bruijnii*. Fur thick, soft, and woolly; wool-hairs of back about 11 mm. in length. General colour above dark clay-colour, more tawny on crown and rump, clearer and more buffy on sides. Under surface and inner sides of limbs pure white to the bases of the hairs, but the white area somewhat narrowed on the belly. Face greyish brown. Ears short, naked, dull brown. Hands and feet thinly haired, almost naked, white or flesh-coloured. Tail rather long in proportion, dark brown, a few fine scattered bristles upon it; rings of scales about 14 to the centimetre.

Skull of about normal height; supraorbital edges little developed. Palatal foramina unusually prolonged backwards, their posterior end almost level with the front of the anterior root of  $m^1$ .

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 142 mm.; tail 154; hind foot (wet) 28; ear (wet) 14.

Skull: nasals 11.3; interorbital breadth 5.6; height from supraorbital ledge to alveolus of  $m^2$  9.3; palatilar length 16; diastema 9.2; palatal foramina 6.1; length of upper molar series 6.4.

*Hab.* Obi Island.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 3. 4. 10. 1. Collected 29th April, 1902, by Mr. Waterstradt.

This species represents the farthest western extension of

the genus *Uromys*, its nearest neighbour being the somewhat larger *U. bruijnii* of Salawatti.

*Microtus (Eothenomys) melanogaster colurnus*, subsp. n.

Similar in all essential characters to true *melanogaster*, but much brighter in colour, the type form being something between "bistre" and "mummy-brown," while the present animal is rather darker and richer than "hazel." The tail also seems to average shorter, but properly measured series are not at present available.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin) :—

Head and body 110 mm. ; tail 35 ; hind foot 17·5.

Skull : condylo-basal length 26·2.

*Hab.* Kuatun, N.W. Fokien.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 0. 5. 8. 38. Original number 52. Collected 24th October, 1899, and presented by C. B. Rickett, Esq.

A large number of specimens examined, presented by Messrs. C. B. Rickett, F. W. Styan, and J. de La Touche.

*Plecotus wardi*, sp. n.

A pale-coloured species with large skull.

Size large. Fur very long and fine. General colour pale, paler than "drab-grey;" under surface broadly washed with greyish white (grey no. 10), lighter than in any other form. Thumb long.

Skull broad and rounded. Bullæ large.

Dimensions of type :—

Forearm 45·5 mm.

Head and body 53 ; tail 50 ; ear 41 ; thumb, c. u. (exclusive of metacarpal) 7·8 ; lower leg and foot (c. u.) 29·5.

Skull : condylo-basal length 16·6 ; basi-sinual length 13·1 ; greatest horizontal diameter of bulla 4·4.

*Hab.* Leh, Ladak. Alt. 10,500'.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 6. 10. 3. 2. Original number 73. Collected 10th June, 1906, by C. A. Crump. Presented by Col. A. E. Ward.

Distinguishable from *P. homochrous* and *puck* by the broader skull and paler colour.

Named in honour of the donor, to whom the Museum is indebted for valuable series of Kashmir animals.